

Message Text

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TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 175301

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: MEETING OF PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY WITH NATO

REPRESENTATIVES

GENEVA FOR HARTMAN

1. THE PRESIDENT MET WITH NATO AMBASSADORS THIS AFTERNOON AND THEY WERE THE FIRST FOREIGN REPRESENTATIVES TO BE RECEIVED BY HIM. THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT HE LOOKED FORWARD TO WORKING WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER TO CONTINUE THE POLICY HE FIRST SUPPORTED WHEN HE CAME TO CONGRESS IN 1949. HE FELT STRONGLY AT THAT TIME, AND FEELS JUST AS STRONGLY TODAY, THAT IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE A STRONG ALLIANCE IN WESTERN EUROPE. IT IS VITAL THAT WE CONTINUE THE POLICY WHICH HAS PAID BIG DIVIDENDS FOR ALL OF US. WHILE WE MAY HAVE SOME PROBLEMS, HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE HEADWAY WHICH HAD BEEN MADE IN OVERCOMING THEM IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. HE ASKED THAT NATO REPRESENTATIVES TO SAY TO
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THEIR GOVERNMENTS THAT THE US IS PROUD OF OUR RELATIONSHIPS

WITH OUR NATO ALLIES.

2. PRIOR TO THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH THE NATO REPRESENTATIVES, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE CONTINUATION OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY HAD NOT BEEN IMPAIRED BY THE DOMESTIC DIFFICULTIES FACED BY THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. US FOREIGN POLICY HAS BIPARTISAN SUPPORT AND ITS CONTINUITY IS ASSURED. THE SECRETARY INDICATED THAT HE COULD GIVE BOTH FORMAL ASSURANCE AND HIS PERSONAL CONVICTION THAT THE MAIN

LINE OF FOREIGN POLICY WILL CONTINUE, PARTICULARLY OUR COMMITMENT TO NATO. TO GIVE EXPRESSION TO THAT COMMITMENT, THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATO COUNTRIES HAD BEEN THE FIRST ONES TO BE ASKED TO MEET WITH THE PRESIDENT. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE IN THE WEST EMPHASIZE OUR UNITY AND THAT THIS SHOULD BE EASIER TO DO BECAUSE THERE ARE NO QUARRELS BETWEEN US. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD WRITTEN TO THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE NATO COUNTRIES AND THAT HE (THE SECRETARY) HAD WRITTEN TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS TO ASSURE THEM OF THE CONTINUITY OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY WITHOUT ANY INTERRUPTION. CERTAIN MESSAGES HAD ALSO GONE TO THE "MORE RECALCITRANT" COUNTRIES TO INFORM THEM THAT THIS WAS NO TIME TO BRING PRESSURES ON THE UNITED STATES, FOR SUCH PRESSURES WOULD CAUSE US TO OVERREACT.

3. TURNING TO CSCE, THE SECRETARY THOUGHT THAT THE CONSULTATION PROCEDURE TO PREPARE FOR THE NEXT PHASE WAS OPERATING SATISFACTORILY. ON THAT, HE INDICATED THAT WE ARE NOW FORMULATING A POSITION OF A VERY PRELIMINARY NATURE WHICH WE WOULD DISCUSS WITH OUR ALLIES IN DUE COURSE. THEY NEED HAVE NO CONCERN ABOUT PROBLEMS SUCH AS FBS. THE SECRETARY CONCLUDED BY INDICATING THAT NATO REMAINS THE PRINCIPAL INSTRUMENT FOR THE EXERCISES OF US FOREIGN POLICY AND THAT AN ALLIANCE TIES WILL CONTINUE TO BE STRENGTHENED AS THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES IS IMPLEMENTED. THE PROCESS OF CONSULTATION WOULD BE CONTINUED AND ALSO STRENGTHENED. FINALLY, HE MADE THE POINT THAT A DELIBERATE DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO INVITE THE NATO AMBASSADORS FOR THE FIRST MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. KISSINGER

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